

HOUSE BILL 2375

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Chapter 204 of the Private Acts of 1988; as amended by Chapter 127 of the Private Acts of 1996; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the Town of Benton.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Chapter 204 of the Private Acts of 1988; as amended by Chapter 127 of the Private Acts of 1996; and any other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by deleting Section 2.01 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 2.01.

(a) Beginning in 2008 a non-partisan general town election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and every four (4) years thereafter to elect a mayor and two (2) commissioners from the town at large.

(b) All elections shall be conducted by the commissioners of elections of Polk County in accordance with the general election laws and this charter.

(c) Any person who is a resident of the Town of Benton or who has owned at least fifty percent (50%) bona fide and recorded fee simple interest of real property within the boundaries of the Town for at least six (6) months prior to the Town election and who is qualified to vote for members of the general assembly and other civil officers for Polk County shall be entitled to vote in elections for mayor and commissioner. The same qualifications for voting in all other Town elections or referenda shall apply unless otherwise provided by law.

(d) Any elector who has been a resident of the Town for one (1) year may be qualified as a candidate for the office of mayor or commissioner.

(e) The mayor and two (2) commissioners elected in the general town election held on the first Saturday in June 2006 shall have their term extended until their successors are elected in the general town election held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of 2008. The mayor, and any commissioner shall be eligible for reelection and, thereafter, the terms of the mayor, and all commissioners shall be four (4) years and until their successors shall be elected.

SECTION 2. This act shall have no effect unless it has been approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of the Town of Benton within sixty (60) days of its signing by the Governor of this state. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Town of Benton and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective as provided in Section 2.